

The McGill Daily

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Talking with the taxman about poetry since 1911

Monday, March 23, 1998

Shapiro Speaks To SSMU Alternative Budget "interesting" but not practical

by Ben Hardy

McGill Principal Bernard Shapiro addressed last Thursday's SSMU Council meeting regarding the university's long term fiscal prospects, and the upcoming budget for next year. During his remarks, he seemed to speak positively of the results of the McGill Alternative Budget Group (MABG).

"It's a very interesting piece of work. They've done a very responsible job," he said.

He went on to say that many of the proposals are not feasible at the present time, and that some of them, such as the plan to use interest on McGill's endowment to pay for operating expenses, are not legally pos-

sible. According to Shapiro, most of the endowment is comprised of restricted funds that can not necessarily be used in the school's general operating budget.

However, Anna Kruzynski, VP University of the Post Graduate Students Society and MABG criticizes the administration's lack of action.

"I don't see why things can't be done now," she said.

Kruzynski also asserts that money is already taken from the endowment and used to improve the school.

"That's a bogus argument... We could use more of the money, instead of recapitalizing it," she said. This would be legal, because the funds

would still be used for their designated purpose, simply in a larger amount.

Shapiro also emphasized that caution must be used to ensure that the endowment is not depleted by inflation.

"I have no objection in principle, but we must maintain purchasing power in the long run," she said.

Kruzynski responded that "Right now they're recapitalizing more than inflation. We never suggested touching capital. We never suggested not protecting [the endowment] from inflation."

SSMU President Tara Newell remarked that "We should not play

risky games with the university."

The possibility of selling off certain investment properties was also put forward by MABG. Exactly what these properties are is not clear. According to Kruzynski, the administration would not release the list to MABG.

"I think it would be interesting to the university community to know what we own. Are we making money? Are we losing money? We don't know," she stated.

Shapiro remarked that given the current real estate market in Montréal, this plan would not necessarily be beneficial to McGill. However, he did suggest renegotiating

the lease of John Abbot College, which is located on McGill's MacDonald campus. The property is currently leased for one dollar a year, and the lease comes up for renewal next year.

In response to questions from the floor, Shapiro stated that "McGill is in a very difficult fiscal situation... Relative to other Québec universities, McGill is rich. However, if you want the kind of product that research universities produce, rich is a relative term."

He concluded that "The overall contribution of the government [towards the funding of post-secondary education] is going to go down... Tuition fees are going to go up."

What are Differential Tuition Fees?

Preston Manning visits McGill

by Jeff Webber

Ambiguity was the pervasive theme in what was supposed to be Preston Manning's talk on post-secondary education, held in Arts Council Room last Friday.

The leader of the opposition Reform Party gave a brief introduction, addressing the recent federal budget and national unity before turning to questions from SSMU members and student reporters. Most of those in attendance were surprised that Manning did not discuss the issue of post-secondary education in any form until questioned specifically on the subject. When the issue was finally raised, surprise ascended to outright astonishment that Manning clearly did not know what differential tuition fees were.

Andrew Kovacs a McGill Student Senator, shared the disbelief of many over Manning's ignorance on the topic.

"I was quite disappointed by the fact that he was completely uninformed on differential tuition fees, and had no idea what we were talking about," he said.

One of the first questions posed to Manning was "What exactly is the Reform Party's stance on differential tuition fees?" Manning responded at length, giving a detailed description of the Reform Party's platform on post-secondary education in general.

"We argue that a lot of the upward pressure on tuition fees have come from cuts of transfer payments to education. We argue that we should stabilize that funding and actually increase it eventually... If you could get

the debt down this is how you could eventually stabilize transfer payments for education," Manning said.

It was unclear to the audience how this response pertained to differential tuition fees and so Manning continued, "The federal government is going to get agreement on differential tuition fees with interprovincial negotiating and agreements, not by paying off provinces. The root of jacking the tuition fees is that there is not enough money, that the transfers have been cut, so they're doing all sorts of things to get money."

A frustrated McGill student in attendance interrupted Manning.

"I don't understand what you're saying about differential tuition fees. What do you feel about differential tuition fees specifically? Do you think it's right that the Quebec government is charging higher tuitions for people from other provinces outside Quebec?" she asked.

Manning did not understand the question and when prodded, admitted that he did not clearly understand that Quebec was charging higher tuition fees for people from outside the province. The same woman who asked Manning to be specific on differential tuition fees suggested, "Maybe I should send you an information package on differential tuition fees," which resulted in a wave of laughter throughout the audience.

Manning also reiterated throughout the meeting that it was the national debt that was the predominant factor in the continuing erosion of post-secondary education. "We're on

the side of tax relief and debt reduction. The federal government is on the side of increased spending... Unless you get debt under control you're going to see an erosion of education," Manning declared.

This remark spurred questions of concern on when the Reform Party would recommend spending to begin. A Religious Studies student expressed his personal dilemma with debt.

"I'm going to be 60 years old before I have paid off my student debt," he said. "I cannot conceive of Canada paying off its national debt, and so how long is it going to take for spending to begin?" Manning said that "in 20 years you could get the debt down to half under our system," but was not clear on when he thought increased spending on education should begin.

Another point of contention was the Millennium Scholarship Fund. Manning thought there were glaring errors with the plan, and that the money being spent on post-secondary education by the Federal government was being delivered in the wrong way.

"The Millennium Scholarship Fund is at best going to get to 6 per cent of students. We say to spend this money on transfer payments to the provinces."

SSMU President-elect Duncan Reid disagreed with Manning's plan, saying that the fund "is just a drop in the bucket. If this money was spread out over all the institutions in the country, I don't think anybody would feel that. Even though it's just a drop



the man (Manning) himself

in the bucket, because it's given to specific individuals who need it, I think they will feel its effect."

When asked whether the Reform Party has any solutions to the student debt crisis that are preventative in nature, rather than solutions that deal with debt payment after it has already been accumulated by students, he responded with seasoned rhetoric.

First he recommended that there be broad based tax relief, and that people should look towards studying in areas where there will be jobs in the future.

"I think we've done a terrible job in informing the people where the jobs are. Students are making a lot of false starts where there is no job. We

can prevent people from borrowing where they are not going to get jobs. We need to provide information, listen to the economists, when they say which areas of the market place have a strong demand," Manning said.

Some students were outraged at this response, which suggested those students studying subjects that are not economically viable should coordinate their lives with the market place.

An angry Kovacs asked, "What kind of message is he sending to Arts students? He's telling them basically that they are wasting their money. How many leaders have we had in this country that have got their degrees in History and the Arts? They're not all Computer Science kids."

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Thursday April 30, 1998 Personality and personality disorders. Presented by Dr. Joel Paris. Chairman, Department of Psychiatry, McGill University
Stephen Leacock Building, Room L-219, 7:00 - 9:00pm

Thursday May 21, 1998 Adolescent depression and suicide: Could this happen to my child? Dr. M. Samy, Montreal Children's Hospital and Psychiatry Department, McGill University
Stephen Leacock Building, Room L-232, 7:00 - 9:00pm

Letter Ruel Misses The Point

Hyde
Park

War's Last Stand

I am writing in response to Paul Ruel's Hyde Park entitled *Politics, Humour and the Portrayal of Women* appearing in the March 16 issue of the *Daily*.

Mr. Ruel completely missed the point of my campaign. I chose to portray the character that I did for two reasons: to make a point about candidates that look good but give little information on their poster, and also to make a point about women in campus politics. Last year, when female candidates in the SSMU and SUS elections chose to campaign using posters with pictures of other women in suggestive poses, with their heads "humor-

ously" pasted on top, it barely caused a stir. When I "offered sexual favours and innuendo to my voters "portraying women as sexual objects for the taking" as the *Red Herring* candidate, did I do anything that hasn't been done before, to some extent, by "real" candidates? I would say no. So why is it offensive when I do make a point, but an acceptable tactic for somebody who actually wants the position that they are running for?

Margaret Antler
U2 Chemistry

I am responding to the editorial written by Paul Ruel entitled *Politics, Humour and the portrayal of Women* in your March 16 issue. Ruel makes some very serious claims in this piece, all levied against *The Red Herring* and our conduct during the SSMU elections. Ruel argues that the *Red Herring* candidates were violent, sexist and verbally and physically aggressive, all very serious charges.

Taken out of context, these comments lead anyone not present at the debates (the majority of students at McGill) to believe that the *Red Herring* is nothing but a boy's club where we drink beer, beat people up, tell dirty jokes belittling women and come up with material for our next issue. Ruel fails to mention a few very important facts.

- 1) These offences were committed for the most part by one candidate alone, not the entire *Red Herring* slate.
- 2) The name of this particular candidate is War, one of the four horsemen of the apocalypse.
- 3) War is in fact violent, sexist and verbally and physically aggressive.

4) War ran with two other horsemen, Death and Pestilence. Why did Ruel fail to add to his Christmas list of offences the fact that the *Red Herring* also advocated biological weapons and mass death during the entire campaign?

It seems that the *Red Herring* didn't make it clear enough to Ruel during the entire election period, wearing hockey masks, make-up and dubbing ourselves War, Pestilence and Death that they were in fact not running as Richard Retyi, Jam Murphy and Nick Redler. The candidate in question - War - was portrayed by myself and I assure you that I don't walk around wearing a hockey mask, throwing cans of Labatt 50 to people around me and yelling obscenities at random people during my everyday activities. I do not share as many traits with War as Mr. Ruel may have you believe. Ruel seems to have trouble distinguishing the understandably violent, aggressive and sexist War from my true usually good natured disposition.

The obstacle of distinguishing between fantasy and actuality may have contrib-

uted to Mr. Ruel's attempt at winning the SSMU Presidency as well as the comparatively lowly title of Club's representative to SSMU. Both elections resulted in defeat for the possibly delusional would-be politico. It seems that Ruel's letter in your last issue, a letter also sent to the *McGill Tribune*, is his final chance to throw one last punch before disappearing forever on the McGill landscape. It seems sad that such a promising young man has such difficulty relaxing and accepting a mockery of the very system he holds so close to his heart. Hopefully, Mr. Ruel will learn to separate a farcical candidate from a genuine one in the future, although I can't blame him entirely for his confusion. I had exactly the same problem distinguishing a joke campaign from a justifiable one when attempting to evaluate Ruel's SSMU campaign myself.

Richard (not War) Retyi
Red Herring Editor-in-chief
U2 Political Mischief

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The McGill Daily has opened all positions for next year's editorial board. All staff members are eligible to run. Elections will take place on Thursday, March 26. Drop by the office (Shatner B-03) for more information.

When I was a kid, I thought Dan Rather was the coolest. He was so cool. And then he started saying 'courage' at the end of the news. And that just creeped me out.

— Deep thoughts with the Daily

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The Naked Truth

Newell photo stirs controversy

by Lindsay Gray

In *The McGill Daily's* March 9th Women's Issue, SSMU President Tara Newell published an article discussing the role of women in positions of authority. Using herself as an example, Newell outlined her stand in a brief yet compelling statement accompanied by a discreet, naked picture. Shortly thereafter in the March 10th issue of the *Plumber's Faucet*, that same picture was run on the front page with a caption saying "C'mon boys! Show me yer stuff" in a bubble coming from the mouth of the unclothed president. Since then, the remaining copies of the *Faucet* have been removed from circulation and the McGill community is curious to know what is going on.

The *Plumber's Faucet*, the biweekly satirical newspaper published by the Engineering Undergraduate Society (EUS), is known for its sometimes offensive humor. Newell's concern with the most recent stabs of the *Faucet* involve questions of where the line is drawn between appropriate and inappropriate forms of sat-

ire.

According to Newell, the objective behind her article in the Women's Issue was to present the subject of body image through the picture and equate that with her role as a female president. In separating the picture from the article, the context in which her point was intended was lost. She expressed concern that the readers of the *Faucet* who may not be familiar with the intent of her original article may very well get the wrong idea. "I don't want people thinking that I posed just for the *Faucet*," she remarked.

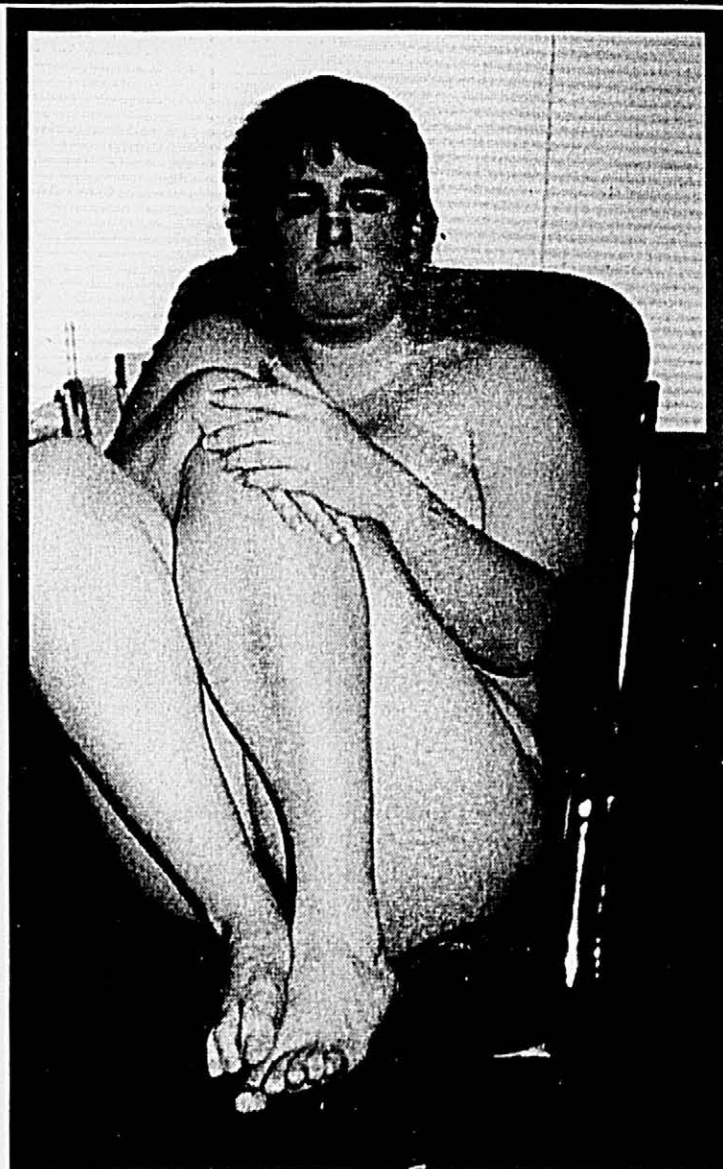
Newell is very aware that this issue can be controversial. She sees the unpopularity in identifying herself as a "feminist," but she wants to highlight the fact that women's roles really have not changed much since the 70s. At that time, a recognized feminist in a high profile position posed in a similar yet more graphic photograph. The outcry and shock at such a revealing statement was a big deal back then, and now "some 25 years later, the response has

changed little," says Newell.

More than anything, Newell's concern lies in the loss of her original point. She was quick to mention that she has no intention to take any serious action against the individuals responsible for this situation. However, she spoke with EUS president Taryn Tomlinson as a woman in a similar position of authority and Tomlinson has taken this issue into her own hands. According to Tomlinson, "on the 19th of March, the EUS council passed a motion acknowledging the March 10 issue of the *Plumber's Faucet* which violated the EUS publication policy. The EUS council is in the process of determining steps to be taken which would resolve this matter to everyone's satisfaction." There has been a build up of issues regarding the *Faucet* leading to these actions. Newell states that this new situation involving her photograph was just "the icing on the cake."

The editors from the *Plumber's Faucet* were unavailable to comment.

All in all, Newell has been im-



the picture that the *Plumber's Faucet* took from the *Daily's* Women's Solidarity Issue

pressed with how the *Faucet* editors have handled the incident. Since the issue's March 10th publication, they have come to her specifically and apologized. There will most likely be an apology printed in the

upcoming issue of the *Faucet*. This action on the part of the *Faucet* will hopefully offer some kind of resolution for the president and will expose Newell in the way she initially planned.

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STOP THE SLAUGHTER

Anti seal hunting rally held in Ottawa

by Olga Hartmann

Last Friday, protesters rallied outside the Ottawa Congress Center to voice opposition to Newfoundland's sealing industry. The rally was spearheaded by the Canadians Against the Commercial Seal Hunt (CATSCH). Buses from all parts of Eastern Canada picked up their protesters early in the morning and dropped them off outside of the Congress Center in Ottawa. A sea of red hats bearing the initials CATSCH crowded a large stage on which speakers such as a Newfoundland painter and a Turtle tribes member from the Newfoundland area loudly protested against the unnecessary killings of the Greenland seals. Some protesters also believed that Newfoundland should ban the sealing industry.

The sealing industry off Newfoundland's eastern shore has existed for centuries. Since the time of the colonization of Canada, Canadian fishermen have been killing 200,000 to 500,000 seals a year.

While the Liberal party was meeting to discuss their party politics for the next two years, CATSCH informed protesters that the sealing quota set by the Canadian government has not been followed. Although a quota of 177,000 seals would be sufficient to maintain the fishermen's livelihood, over 500,000 seals were killed last year. According to CATSCH, if this continues, the Greenland seal will be wiped out just as the Walrus and Beluga Whale were. Henri Motte, an oceanographer and founding member of the National Sealing Association, maintains a different point of view. "Since the early time of the colonization of Western Canada, Canadian fishermen have been killing 200,000-500,000 seals and never has the herd been decreased. Scientists could never prove that the seal hunt could endanger the species."

The hunting is supposed to be done according to strict regulations, to minimize the pain of the

animal. A club is used to strike the seal over the head so that it is killed instantly. According to a video created by the International Fund for Animal Welfare using a hidden camera on Newfoundland sealing boats, 80% of the seals are less than a year old, and are not killed instantly but clubbed several times while writhing in pain or shot in the back of the head and then clubbed until dead. Louise Slattery, an animal rights defender present at the rally, talks about the methods for killing: "The ultimate issue I have with the seal hunt is the cruelty you can see has been captured on the footage by the IFAW cameras. It is unacceptable today in a civilized society."

Motte says that as a fisherman who frequents the Newfoundland sealing boats, he does not believe that the video is accurate: "It has been proved scientifically that a bat to the head of a seal done in the correct manner will kill the seal instantaneously, without any suffering. When you are skinning the seal after it has been clubbed, it does not feel anything, but its nervous system is not dead yet. As a result, it could have a reaction that makes it look as though it is in pain. I have witnessed the Newfoundland sealers and they do not wait for hours while baby seals die slowly. It is a tough, dangerous job. They do not enjoy their work."

CATSCH also protests the use of the seal for purposes other than subsistence. According to CATSCH statistics, seals are not only used for their pelts, but also for their penises to be sold in China as an aphrodisiac. "According to the numbers in 1996, 240,000 male seals were killed in addition to the allotted quota for their penises, which were sent to China and sold there illegally," quotes one CATSCH representative. The reason for the black market is because the meat of the seal is untasty and unprofitable, at seven cents a pound without subsidies from the Canadian govern-

ment and 20 cents with subsidies. The Canadian government also supports the seal hunt by providing organizations like the Canadian Sealing Association with 3.5 million dollars a year in subsidies. Nancy Osadetz, a member of CATSCH comments, "Only 600 permits were given out each season to hunt seals, which means there are only 120 jobs out there for sealing. I don't want my tax dollars going into subsidies for the cruel murder of these animals. I would rather it be spent on building schools in Newfoundland." One of the issues to be discussed by the Liberal party was whether or not to support the hunt. In the last election, Rick Smith, a researcher on seal ecology, spoke at the rally, saying that the party has an ulterior motive for supporting the seal hunt.

In the last election, the Liberals promised the Newfoundland people jobs; this was a bunch of lies. There is record unemployment among the young and the old, and Newfoundland has the highest unemployment rate of any province in Canada. To deflect attention away from their failures, the Liberals from St. John's and Ottawa are trying to resuscitate the commercial sealing industry." Posters everywhere provided by CATSCH read, "Newfoundlanders Need Jobs, Not Slaughter."

The rally was a success in that it was the largest animal cruelty protest in Canadian history, with 2,000 people gathered outside the Congress Center. There were a huge range of individuals attending, from leather jacket toting punks to pregnant young women holding the hands of their three year olds. One tired activist commented as she left the protest: "All animals have a right to life. How would people feel if their babies were skinned alive? If people can't watch the torture of these animals, they shouldn't pretend it's not happening. They should act!"

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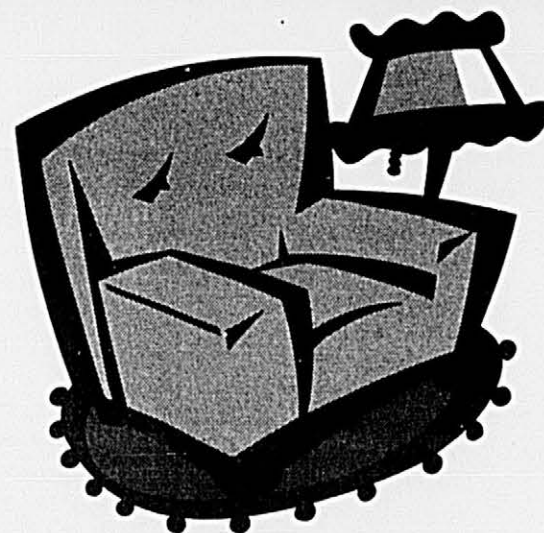
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Monday, March 23, 1998

The McGill Daily

Democracy's reluctant hero

by Dave Lum

VANCOUVER (CUP) – Shit disturbing in the name of democracy doesn't always do great things for a person's popularity. For Wei Jingsheng it meant 16 years in a Chinese prison. But on a recent stop in Vancouver, he claimed that it only strengthened his resolve.

Before his press conference, Wei Jingsheng waits outside in the gravel parking lot and shares a laugh with his small entourage. Wearing a leather jacket and hanging around the car, he looks misleadingly average. The surrounding East Vancouver neighborhood is undisturbed by his presence. Not the sort of reception you would expect for a Nobel Peace Prize nominee, or a person who has been called China's leading political dissident. Then again, Wei Jingsheng doesn't like to be thought of as a hero.

Wei's sense of modesty will have to endure the label nevertheless. For the 1,000 people who crammed a high school auditorium later that evening to hear him speak, he is something of a legend. The European Parliament agrees, having awarded him the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in 1996.

Unfortunately, Wei wasn't around to give his acceptance speech. He was busy serving his second 14-year jail sentence for his views on democracy and human rights in China. Not everybody appreciates a troublemaker.

Wei's problem is that he is both stubborn and completely forthright about his politics. The force of his words wasn't spared for Premier Glen Clark, whom he had just met at the press conference. After introducing Wei, Clark stated his view that "promotion of trade and promotion of human rights throughout the world are not mutually exclusive." Wei didn't agree, and openly retorted: "But the Chinese Communist Party employs trade as a means to influence foreign powers to do their bidding and to bring about a quiet, less forceful position on human rights."

Clark's iron-on smile never faltered, but for Chinese Communist Party leaders, honest answers like these have earned Wei 18 years in prison. Wei never finished his second 14-year sentence. Last November, he was released from China to the United States. Officially, his release is a "medical parole" to treat his failing health. In reality, however, it is an exile.

Shortly after arriving in New York, Chinese officials said he would have to complete his prison term if he ever returned to China.

He says he never really wanted to leave China, but the conditions of his release required it. Wei is still an optimist. "I believe, however, that the circumstances inside China are changing very quickly... I believe that very soon we may see an even larger change inside China. When this occurs, I will take the opportunity to go back and stand with my fellow countrymen to engage in their struggle."

Distinction between China and the Chinese Communist Party is something about which Wei is adamant. "I think that first we must correct a wrong perception... that China is represented by the Chinese Communist Party, and the Chinese Communist Party is the same as China. If we can address this wrong perception, I think then you can go ahead, but I would like to see an abandonment of this idea."

Wei has always been a nationalist, but he wasn't always an opponent of the Communist government. In his youth, he was a staunch supporter of Chairman Mao and "Marxist-Leninist-Mao Zedong Thought." At 16, Wei joined the Red Guards, a student movement Mao formed early in the Cultural Revolution to ferret out counter-revolutionary elements. It was during his travels across the country with the Red Guards that Wei first began to question his devotion to Maoism. In his 1979 autobiographical essay, he recalled how he was overcome with "shock and embarrassment" by the sight of a naked girl begging at a train station – his first encounter with pov-

erty. He wrote: "For the remaining two days of the trip, I could not put the scene at that nameless little station

continued to grow in prominence through his pro-democracy essays and unflinching criticisms of

out of my mind. Was this the 'fruit' of socialism? Or was it the evil doings of a few bad local leaders?"

His real troubles began with his involvement in the Democracy Wall movement of 1978-79. Democracy Wall was a forum for radical literary and political essays, and consisted of large character posters pasted on walls around Beijing. Wei's instantly famous essay "The Fifth Modernization: Democracy" was a direct reply to Mao's Four Modernizations of agriculture, industry, national defense and science. In the essay, Wei argued that the Four Modernizations are not possible without an accompanying empowerment of the masses through democracy.

Over the next year, Wei (along with fellow activists), founded the radical journal *Exploration*. As Wei

the government, he also earned the attention of the police. On March 29, 1979 he was arrested at his home in the middle of the night. In the following show trial, Wei was convicted for his "counter-revolutionary" activities and sentenced to 14 years in prison. Information about Wei was limited in subsequent years as letters to and from his family had to trickle through the censoring hands of prison officials. But with the help of his friend and fellow Democracy Wall activist Liu Qing, his collected writings were smuggled out of China and published in 1997 under the title *The Courage to Stand Alone*.

It is clear from these writings that rather than breaking down under harsh treatment in prison, Wei's resolve strengthened. In his first letter from jail, two years after his imprisonment started, he thanked the le-

gal officials for a recent opportunity to see his family, and added some comments on their general behavior. "Of course, I would like to see you extend this spirit of tolerance by making a clean sweep of all your despicable old habits of brutal repression and allowing society to develop under a more normal political atmosphere."

Single-minded in his pursuit for democracy, Wei wrote letter after letter to prison officials and Communist Party leaders Deng Xiaoping and Jiang Zemin. Instead of angry words, his letters contain wry humour and had the tone of advice offered to a wayward friend. For instance, in a letter dated Sept. 5, 1990, he wrote: "Dear Jiang Zemin: Although you looked fatter on television recently than you did when you were in Shanghai, I can guess that this is only an indication of your cook's talents and not because you

ers - I've yet to hear your own voice once."

Wei's notoriety never abated while he was in prison. Governments and human rights organizations such as Amnesty International campaigned relentlessly for his release. Then on Sept. 14, 1993 Wei was released on parole. Many, including Wei himself, suspect that his release was meant to bolster Beijing's (failed) bid for the 2000 Summer Olympics.

Wei savored the brief freedom. Over the next several months he wrote critical articles for the New York Times and Hong Kong papers, asking the United States to pressure China for reforms. However, simply speaking to the media violated the conditions of his parole. In April 1994 Wei quietly disappeared. Chinese police denied he was taken into secret custody, but a year and a half later in November 1995, the authorities announced his formal arrest on charges of treason. He was sentenced to another 14-year term that December.

Today, Wei is unsure of why he was finally released, a f-

cation, including treatment for hypertension, high blood pressure and heart disease. "My liver, my spleen, and my kidney all have problems and so I tend to be taking many types of medication."

Wei is clearly tired as he prepares to address the 1,000 people who have gathered to hear him speak in the high school auditorium, but it is not just because of his weakened health. The morning of his Vancouver visit, he flew out of Toronto at 7 a.m., after finishing another speaking engagement.

Wei's fatigue shows as his body continues to operate on Toronto time. But when he steps on-stage and the filled seats and packed doorways burst into a standing ovation, Wei greets the crowd with enthusiasm.

"I'm very happy to see so many of my fellow countrymen here," he says in acknowledging the audience of mostly older Chinese Canadians. Wei is 47, but he is a young man to many of those attending.

Despite its age, the audience is anything but docile. A group of locals and Chinese expats who vehemently disagree with his views on Hong Kong and Tibet make their presence known with a banner and by shouting angrily at the audience before Wei's arrival. Wei's supporters in the crowd are similarly boisterous, and launch into long orations and fire questions at Wei as if they've been holding them in for a long time. One man, waving his fist in the air and straining to get his words out, expresses frustration with efforts to popularize democracy in China.

"How do you mobilize a Chinese people who have been called cowardly and useless? Many Chinese cousins would rather be slaves than live the comfortable life."

Wei nods, and says there is truth in the man's words. He also says he's found since coming to North America that even those in the democratic movement here are "quite cowardly. But I cannot accept this approach. If we want to have democracy, freedom and happiness, we have to help ourselves by speaking the truth."

One man announces himself as a Tibetan and asks Wei to clearly state his position on Tibet. Wei answers that the current Chinese position on Tibet was directly attributable to the Chinese Communist Party. "I think that I would support that every nation, every people has the right to sovereignty. Not only Tibet, but many regions in China should have the right to be independent. But under the totalitarian government, also the Communist

China, they do not recognize the rights of the Tibetan people, nor do they recognize the rights of the Han people."

Wei, however, feels that human rights must be addressed before sovereignty, and warns against allowing Tibet to become a point of divisiveness among the Chinese people. "If we do this we will have fallen into the trap of the Communist government."

A man in his twenties then asks what Canadians can do when our government is indifferent about human rights in Tibet and China. People at the University of British Columbia were arrested protesting the APEC meeting, he says, so where is the democracy in Canada? "Of course, Canada's democracy is not perfect," says Wei. "And this tells us that even in a democratic society like Canada, we still have to fight for our democratic rights."

Later, Wei says that Western assistance in Chinese elections is patronizing and ineffective. "It is not true that the Chinese people do not know how to vote in elections. The reason there are no real elections in China is because of the one party system. Without the basic conditions for a democratic election, under the one party system, just having technical assistance from the Western countries is not going to help China to have a real democratic election. Holding these local elections is just creating an illusion for Western nations who do not understand the real conditions in China."

After leaving Vancouver, Wei returned to New York to fulfill his duties as a visiting scholar at Columbia University. His immediate future includes more writing and a trip to South Africa to meet with Nelson Mandela.

In response to the last question of the evening, about the future of democracy in his home country, he says, "The answer is that you will definitely see democracy becoming a reality. Even given my poor health and age, I believe that I will see democracy become a reality in China."

And after he thanked the audience, Wei stands and throws his arms in the air in a sign of triumph. And amid another standing ovation, he walks off the stage.

If you would like more information on China or political dissidents in general, please consult your local library, Amnesty International. The Courage to Stand Alone is available in your local bookstore, but probably not at Chapters.

are having an easy time of things.... Nominally, you are the most senior leader in the country, but you're still forced to say only the words of oth-

lengthy list of illnesses, he's fortunate to be receiving medical treatment in the U.S. In the middle of the press conference Wei rests and takes medi-

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Wei Jingsheng: the Daily Interview

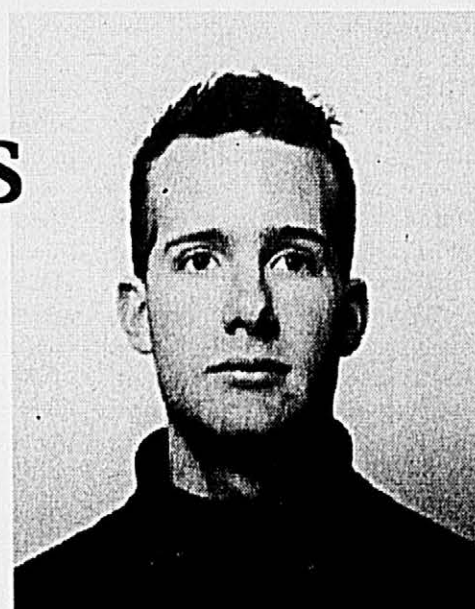


Sam Johnson

VP University Affairs Election Results Questioned

Ballots mysteriously disappear

by Tamana Kochar



Andrew Kovacs

Sam Johnston has been declared the new VP University Affairs after the recount of election ballots on Wednesday night.

Johnston had won by three votes when results were posted on election night. This was later changed to eight votes when it was compared to the final total of 1189 for Johnston and 1181 for Kovacs.

As it stands after the recount, Johnston came out ahead with 13 votes. Controversy surrounds the loss of 14 ballots and one ballot which was found between election night and the night of the recount.

Several SSMU councilors are questioning the integrity of this election. Melissa Pallett, residence representative to SSMU made a motion at last Thursday's council meeting to establish a committee to investigate

the SSMU election process.

"No one is questioning who won, I am concerned about the security of the elections," she said.

Pallett's motion passed.

There are rumours that ballot boxes were taken out of Shatner on election night and then brought back for the recount. As opposed to locking the ballot boxes, election official decided to seal the boxes only with tape.

The witness who saw the boxes being taken out of Shatner wished to remain anonymous.

The fact that the counting of the ballots had to be switched from one room to another is also being called into question. The original room was turned into a coat check for the election night party at Gert's.

People were also concerned that

the ballot counting room was overflowing with people when the Shatner polls were being counted.

Constitutionally, every candidate has the right to have a scrutineer present when ballots are being counted but the high number of scrutineers per candidate is raising controversy.

Pallett hopes that this investigation would avoid any procedural discrepancies in the future.

"It is no longer about the people, it is about policy and procedure," she said.

Pallett also reiterated that "this institution is based on elected individuals and if that process is tainted then we are setting a dangerous precedent."

Article 17.1 in the SSMU constitution states, "All appeals to the Ju-

dicial Board regarding the conduct of an election or referendum must be made no later than 5 days after the announcement of election results or any official announcement made by the CRO." Any student is allowed to question election results to the Judicial Board.

"The purpose of the recount was to reinforce the victor's mandate but instead what it has done has created more doubt," said Kovacs, the election runner-up.

Prior to the recount, Johnston offered to create an academic equity commissioner position for Kovacs. While it is uncertain what this position entails, Johnston was unable to comment.

The position of University Affairs involves sitting in on many committees within the McGill administra-

tion. While Elizabeth Gomery, current VP University Affairs felt that the position of the academic equity commissioner could help on an equity level, she was apprehensive on the academic level.

"On an academic level, a lot of the work is done through committees and the VP UA sits on these committees. I don't see the place for an academic equity commissioner because you already have one and that is the VP UA," she explained.

Other councilors also doubt the feasibility and necessity of this position. "It is not the type of thing that you can just make up. Any SSMU position should not be a consolation prize," said Pallett.

The CRO was unavailable for comment.

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Beverage monopoly on campus

by Keri Kosuri

In the near future, the McGill campus may be monopolized by one soft-drink supplier. Spectrum Marketing Corporation, a Vancouver-based company, has approached McGill University to facilitate the negotiation of a contract with one beverage company, probably either Coke or Pepsi. The highest bidder will win exclusive vending rights on the McGill campus. In return, the company will provide the university with scholarships and funds.

The proposal has only been addressed at one council meeting and President Tara Newell says that council is not ready to make any motions yet. "It was brought up this year as FYI. But it is something that next year's council will address and I really hope that it will go through."

But not all McGill students share Newell's enthusiasm.

"It's awful, it's verging on privatization! It's scary," said Melissa Dickie, an UO student.

Dickie's response highlights the growing problem at the helm of this proposed contract. Corporations have a growing stake in university

campuses.

Council's consideration of Spectrum's contract follows on the heels of its recent decision to hire KPMG Management Consulting, a Montréal based management firm, to restructure SSMU. Last year, KPMG ranked third on the global privatization consultants list, in addition to contracting Hartford and part of Baltimore's public education system to Educational Alternatives Inc, a private firm.

Yet Newell strongly maintains that the negotiation of a contract with Spectrum is not indicative of the corporatization of the university. "It's actually decorporatizing, because there will be one less beverage company on campus."

One look at Spectrum's track record contradicts Newell's statement. Spectrum Marketing Corporation specializes in securing partnerships between the private and public sectors. Some of the industries open for such alliances are financial/banking institutions, computing hardware and software companies, athletic clothing manufacturers, telecommunications organizations, and

automobile companies, to name a few.

Spectrum has sought corporate sponsorship for health care institutions, municipalities, and post-secondary institutions across Canada.

"We're basically using non-traditional ways to raise revenues for the public sector. More and more schools, hospitals, etc., are trying to look for new ways to save money," remarked Gillian Hertig, Director of Corporate Sponsorship.

But it is undeniable that Spectrum has more than the interests of the public sector in mind. In an interview titled "Is your Campus open for business?" and released by the University of Ottawa, President Dale Boniface, president of Spectrum, stated, "The public sector is now considered 'open for business' in a manner that was unheard of before. Corporate Canada is looking for the opportunity that the public-sector provides. For the college and university market, that opportunity is fresh audiences in the 18-25 year old range, who are well-educated, and future 'higher-income' earners."

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Bloc Québécois Demands Opt-out Clause From Millennium Fund

MP's say that budget plans are outside of federal jurisdiction

by Idella Sturino

OTTAWA (CUP) — In a not-so-surprising turn of events last week, the Bloc Québécois called on Parliament to denounce the Millennium Scholarship Fund and other federal initiatives in education.

Pointing out that education is exclusively a provincial jurisdiction, Bloc member of Parliament Stéphan Tremblay introduced a motion for the House of Commons to "censure any action by the federal government in the area of education," such as the Millennium Fund or national testing.

"We must decry the disease affecting the federal Liberals, which I would call chronic dominating federalism," he said in the March 12 debate period. He added that the \$2.5-billion scholarship fund is nothing more than a federalist strategy to increase Ottawa's visibility at the expense of Québec students.

The motion came to a vote March 17 but was defeated. Only the Bloc caucus voted in favour of it. Progressive Conservative member of Parliament Charlie Power said while his party agreed that education fell under provincial jurisdiction, that didn't rule out federal initiatives in the area, and so would be voting against the

motion.

"We do not think any government or any political party should deny access to funding for students simply because of jurisdictional disputes," he said in last week's debate.

But the Bloc is not turning its back on federal funds for Québec students, it wants out of the national scholarship program, but with compensation. And while the Bloc's motion was soundly defeated, the issue is not a dead one, says Bloc MP Paul Crete.

"We'll continue to promote our position because we believe all Québec education [stakeholders] want the money to be transferred to the province through transfer payments, not this visibility-enhancing fund," he said.

Crete says his party believes Québec's education system is the strongest in Canada and has been since it opted out of the Canada Student Loans program in 1964. He points to Québec's below-average student debt levels and tuition rates as proof.

"We've developed a good system and we want to protect it," he said.

The arguments raised by the Bloc in this latest round of parlia-

mentary debate over provincial jurisdiction echo criticisms raised by Québec officials over the fund.

When it was first announced last November, Québec Education Minister Pauline Marois labeled the fund another example of federalist meddling in provincial territory.

Now, along with Québec Premier Lucien Bouchard, unions, and Québec student federations, Marois is calling for an opt-out clause.

But it's a call federal officials say will not be answered. According to Human Resources Development Canada — whose mandate includes the Millennium Fund even though it is to be run by arm's-length, private foundation — Québec has no way out of the fund.

According to ministry officials, the government is not required to provide an opt-out clause because the fund is not part of the Canada Student Loans program. Rather, it is a temporary fund which will dry up after 10 years.

And in the federal budget, it was stipulated that the scholarship program's funds should be administered in a way that avoids duplication in the provinces and builds

up and complements existing provincial needs and programs.

But this isn't good enough for critics of the fund.

"I'm sure they created the fund this way because this is the way they can pass over the law," Christiane Miville-Deschenes, a spokesperson for Marois, said.

Crete agrees.

"You think a 10-year program is a temporary fund? I'm not sure it is. It will have a general and permanent effect on the education system in Québec and other parts of Canada," he said.

Given the defeat of the Bloc's motion in the House, Crete says the next step is to take their concerns directly to the Prime Minister. Like Pauline Marois, Crete hopes to achieve an opt-out clause through negotiations with the man who dreamed up the fund in the first place.

And it looks like Crete and Marois will have the support of many students on their side.

The Canadian Federation of Students, which has advocated an opt-out option for Québec since the fund was first announced, supports the Bloc in its mission.

"It's not unreasonable," Simone Saint-Pierre, a federation

spokesperson, said of the Bloc's push for an opt-out clause. "But I don't think it will happen."

Similarly, the *Fédération des étudiantes collégiales et universitaires du Québec* opposes the fund because it says it infringes on Québec's jurisdiction and adds another layer of bureaucracy to its loans and grants system.

Like Tremblay, the organization suggests the Millennium Fund won't really help students in Québec but is simply a political gesture. It wants to see Québec given the province's share of the scholarship fund to administer itself towards decreasing student indebtedness.

Details of the fund, which was unveiled in last month's federal budget, have not yet been disclosed. The government has stated the fund will provide grants of up to \$3,000 to about 100,000 students annually beginning in the year 2000.

The private, arms-length foundation established to manage the fund was to have been headed up by Chrysler Canada CEO Yves Landry, but he died suddenly March 16. The Prime Minister's Office says it observing a period of mourning for Landry and has not begun looking for a replacement yet.

Under Fire

CFS criticizes Ottawa's student aid plan

by Keri Kosuri

In the February 1998 Federal Budget, the Canadian government announced the introduction of education grants in conjunction with the existing Registered Education Savings Plan Program [RESP]. RESP is a financial mechanism designed to help parents save for their children's education. This is the first time that such a grant has been created within RESP.

Under this new program, RESP contributions made to qualifying plans after January 1, 1998 will receive a grant of 20% on the first \$2,000 of annual contributions made to RESP for a child 18 or under. Unused grant funds may be carried forward to future years.

However, the grant is not without its shortcomings. Critics contend that this is only a band-

aid solution that forfeits any promising solutions to the rising cost of post-secondary education.

Simonne St. Pierre, Communications Coordinator of the Canadian Federation of Students contends, "It's not a good idea on the governments part. If they want a national system of grants, then they should integrate it fully. For those parents who have

the means to save \$2000, it is a good incentive. But what about those who cannot afford to put aside that much? If you can't, you won't have access to the subsidies."

St. Pierre also argues that the implementation of the grant program presumes that the onus is on the parents to provide tuition fees in the long run. Consequently, any progress towards

the complete funding of education is stunted. "With those kind of incentives, it is a disinvestment. The message that parents are receiving is that it's fully their responsibility to pay for their child's education. What we would like to see is that the post-secondary education system is publicly funded and therefore accessible to all."

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N O T I C E S

QPIRG Refund Period: March 9-27. Any student wishing to relinquish membership in QPIRG may come to 3647 University St. 1-5pm (Mon-Fri) and collect \$3 refund.

Conference: From California, Dr. Bonita Bergin, pioneer of assistance dogs will discuss canine companions who alert their partners of oncoming epilepsy attacks, service dogs for the handicapped etc. Tuesday - March 31, 7:30pm 5655 Chamorro, metro Rosemont, 276-2443.

WORDPROCESSING/TYPING

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The Daily Publications Society requires nominees for the 1998-99 Board of Directors

As a board member, you will plan policy and strategy, direct finances and deal with related issues for the McGill Daily.

These positions are an excellent way to develop job skills including problem solving, supervising staff and managing finances and are good experience for those interested media, journalism and/or strategic planning.

Applications can be picked up in the McGill Daily Business Office, Room B07, Shatner Building.

Applications are due Wed. April 8th, 5pm. For further information contact Suzanne Williams, Chief Returning Officer at 398-6790 or 398-6784.

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Department of Physical Education

September 1998 NEW COURSES

434-300A Special Topics: Sport and Society
Most individuals encounter elements of sport in their daily lives as either participants, spectators or consumers. Both the positive and negative aspects of sport and its influence on the varying elements of our social lives will be examined. The approach will be diverse, encompassing psychology, sociology, anthropology, political science, history, physical education and journalism.

Tues & Thurs 14:30 -16:00

434-330A Physical Activity and Health

This course will examine epidemiological and experimental approaches to physical activity, health and well being. These will include the impact of physical activity on coronary heart disease, cancer, immune system function, obesity, diabetes, blood lipid metabolism, and psychological functioning. The impact of regular activity on economic benefits in the work place and health care costs will be examined as well as issues related to exercise prescription and exercise adherence.

Tues & Thurs 10:00 - 11:30

The McGill Daily and QPIRG require a Chief Returning Officer for 1998-99

The Chief returning Officer is responsible for organizing elections of the board for both QPIRG and the McGill Daily. This is a paid position.

To apply, please submit a resumé with cover letter to Room B07, Shatner Building. (Cover letter must note your degree, year, full name, address and phone number as well as reasons for applying for position.) Applications are due Wed. April 8, 5 pm. For additional information, please contact Suzanne Williams CRO at 398-6790 or 398-6784.

3\$ OFF THERE IS STILL TIME TO GUARANTEE YOUR EXAM SUCCESS

Most students go to school but are never shown "how to learn" or even suspect there is a method to unleash their true potential. In his no nonsense result oriented book "how to get the best grades with the least amount of effort" the author and top achiever shares his amazing skills.

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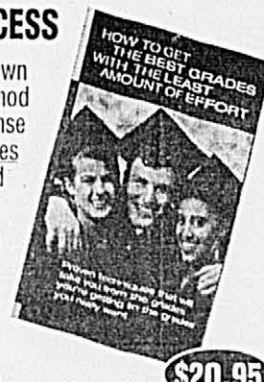
"I can't believe they don't teach this in school... and the hours I used to waste for nothing... a definite must for all students" - Robert Mc Nemara.
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Monday, March 23, 1998

The McGill Daily

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STOP WRITING ON THE BATHROOM WALLS!

McGill's Golden Key National Honour Society wants you to EXPRESS YOURSELF! During the week of March 23rd to March 27th tables will be set up around campus from 10am to 4pm so all members of the McGill community can "leave their mark" in the first and only *Reflections* scrapbook. The purpose of *Reflections* is threefold: (1) to capture the essence of 1998 at McGill through individual autographs, poems, jokes, pictures, and words of wisdom; (2) to act as a literacy time-capsule since the book will be kept untouched in library archives for 50 years; and, (3) to promote academic excellence by charging 25 cents for each entry which will be donated to the McGill Libraries.

It's the cheapest donation you'll ever make to McGill! So don't miss the chance to get yourself published!

Tables will be located in the following locations:

- * student union building
- * Redpath
- * McClennan
- * Frank Dawson Adams
- * Health Sciences Library

THE SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTRE OF MCGILL STUDENTS' SOCIETY PRESENTS

Laura Robinson

- author of Crossing the Line: Sexual Assault in Canada's National Sport and She Shoots, She Scores: Canadian Perspectives on Women and Sport
- producer of the documentary "Thin Ice" on sexual abuse in junior hockey
- freelance journalist
- ex-competitive cyclist

"Rape Culture in Canada's National Sport"

Friday, March 27th, 11:30 am
Moyse Hall, Arts Building

Donations Accepted

SPONSORED IN PART BY MCRTW

AnnaLouise Craigo

on violence against sex workers

Mehejabeen Ebrahim

on violence against women of colour and related cultural issues

Maria Barile

on violence against women with mental and physical disabilities

Rebecca Pates

on violence and sexual orientation

Panel Discussion on

"Contextualizing Sexual Violence: Four Perspectives"

Moderated by Christina Gravely, External Coordinator, SACOMSS

Friday, March 27th, 7:30 pm
Moyse Hall, Arts Building

Donations Accepted